
**ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND
RECORDING
ON GROUNDWORKS AT
HEALTHLINC HOUSE, CLIFF ROAD, WELTON,
LINCOLNSHIRE**

(WECR11)

**Work Undertaken For
Lighthouse Healthcare**

June 2011

Report Compiled by
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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL
PROJECT
SERVICES**



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1. SUMMARY

A programme of archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken during groundworks at Healthlinc House, Cliff Road, Welton, Lincolnshire. The work monitored the excavation of foundation trenches in preparation for an extension to the kitchen and dining room.

The groundworks revealed an undated, buried, subsoil and two natural deposits.

No archaeological features were revealed and no finds were retrieved during the investigation.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Planning Background

Archaeological Project Services was commissioned by Lighthouse Healthcare to undertake a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording during groundworks associated with an extension to the kitchen and dining room at Healthlinc House, Cliff Road, Welton, Lincolnshire. Approval for the development was sought from West Lindsey District Council through the submission of planning application No. 123926. The work was carried out on 9th May 2011.

2.2 Topography and Geology

Welton parish spans the Lincolnshire limestone ridge in the west, dropping down into the River Langworth valley to the east. The site lies at approximately 25m OD on the north side of a slight, east-west stream valley. The soils are of the Beccles 1 Association typical stagnogleys, with Aswardby Association gleyic brown calcareous earths immediately to the east (Hodge et al. 1984, 99; 118). The soils are developed on Tealby Clay and limestone.

2.3 Archaeological Setting

The settlement of Welton is first recorded in 1072 in a writ issued by King William granting the manor to the newly founded cathedral at Lincoln (Foster, 1931, 2). The place-name 'Wellestone' is Old English in origin and refers to the 'farmstead or village with a spring' (Cameron 1998).

Evidence for prehistoric activity within the assessment area is sparse and currently comprises a single Neolithic stone axe recovered to the north of the village and cropmarks to the north and west, which possibly represent prehistoric ditched enclosures.

Romano-British deposits and finds identified in the area are relatively rich. Pottery of 4th Century date and tiles, including one stamped with an inscription, have been recovered from the site of a Roman building 380m to the southwest of the proposed development. A small quantity of Roman pottery has also been found 200m to the southwest.

An early history of the village records that when a Roman camp was levelled in Chapel Close in about 1860, "many Roman urns were found and unfortunately broken to pieces..." (Hunt c.1925). Chapel Close is located on the opposite side of Norbeck Lane to the proposed development site. The interpretation of the site as a "camp" is not likely to be accurate but if the pottery was correctly identified, some activity at this location is indicated (Albone, 2002).

During the construction of Healthlinc House in 1971 an Anglo-Saxon inhumation cemetery was discovered. Eleven graves were recorded, accompanied by annular brooches, beads, pottery vessels, shield bosses and a spearhead, indicating a date of around the 6th Century. The graves were very shallow, with the deepest extending only 0.3m into the natural subsoil.

An archaeological evaluation undertaken immediately to the southeast corner of the house revealed structural remains of Late Saxon date. These included foundation trenches and cobbled surfaces of 10th to 11th Century date. A post-built structure was also identified (Albone 1998). It was considered likely that the remains identified during the evaluation were part of a late Saxon precursor to the prebendal manor of West Hall, supporting a suggestion by Everson et al. (1991, 28) that the later manor fossilized an earlier pattern. A second evaluation undertaken in January of 2003 within the south-eastern corner of the grounds of the house also identified late Saxon and Medieval remains (Albone, 2003).

An evaluation undertaken in March 2008 encompassed the area of the 2003 evaluation and identified pits and ditches of medieval date, but no structures. It seems likely that the recorded features represent property divisions, refuse disposal and horticultural and agricultural activities (Cope-Faulkner 2008).

Medieval remains were also identified during the construction of Healthlinc House. The site appeared to have originally been divided into four separate crofts by ditches. Pottery of 13th to 14th Century date was recovered and the site of a possible house was noted in the southwest corner of the northwestern croft (Notes in SMR file).

Approximately 200m to the south, earthwork remains of fishponds survive, including three rectangular ponds and two east to west aligned channels (Everson et al 1991, 210). These earthworks are protected as a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM 31636). St Mary's church is located 300m to the east and contains fabric of 13th and 14th Century date (Pevsner and Harris 1989, 786).

3. AIMS

The aim of the archaeological investigation was to ensure that any archaeological features exposed during the groundworks should be recorded and, if present, to determine their date, function and origin.

4. METHODS

Foundation trenches for the extension were excavated by machine and abutted the northeast corner of the northwest wing of the existing building. The progress of the work was monitored and the deposits revealed were examined and recorded. Each deposit was allocated a unique reference number (context number) with an individual written description. A list of all contexts and their descriptions appears at Appendix 1. A photographic record was compiled and a representative section was drawn on a Trench Sheet. Recording was undertaken according to standard Archaeological Project Services' practice.

5. RESULTS

Following the investigation, records were checked and ordered to ensure that they constituted a complete Level II archive and a stratigraphic matrix of all identified deposits was produced. Phasing was assigned based on the nature of the deposits and recognisable relationships between them.

Following post-excavation analysis two main phases were identified. These were:

Phase 1	Natural Deposits
Phase 2	Undated

Archaeological contexts are listed and described below. The numbers in brackets are the context numbers assigned in the field.

Phase 1: Natural

The earliest deposits revealed were those occurring naturally. The earlier of these, (003), was a softish, light to mid grey, slightly clayey sand containing limestone fragments, at least 0.18m thick. Overlying this, a second natural deposit, (002), was formed from a softish, mid yellowish brown, clayey sand, 0.41m thick. Both deposits are likely to represent the natural weathering of the solid limestone geology.

Phase 2: Undated

The final and most recent deposit, (001), was a softish, mid greyish brown, slightly clayey and silty sand, 0.19m thick, interpreted as a buried subsoil, which was, until recently, sealed by paving slabs. This deposit may have been formed during agricultural or horticultural activity undertaken at the site prior to the construction of the modern building.

6. DISCUSSION

The northernmost part of the footings had been disturbed previously by the installation of modern services associated with the existing building.

The southernmost part of the footings revealed a sequence of three deposits, the earliest two being naturally formed and the remaining deposit comprising a buried subsoil, which may have been formed during a previous use of the site.

No deposits of archaeological significance were revealed during the investigation.

7. CONCLUSION

No archaeological remains or deposits of archaeological significance were identified during the course of the monitoring and recording works.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services, wish to thank Lighthouse Healthcare for commissioning the work.

9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Dale Trimble
 Site Supervisors: Vicky Mellor
 Photographic reproduction: Sue Unsworth
 Illustration: Liz Murray
 Post-excavation analysis: Bob Garland

10. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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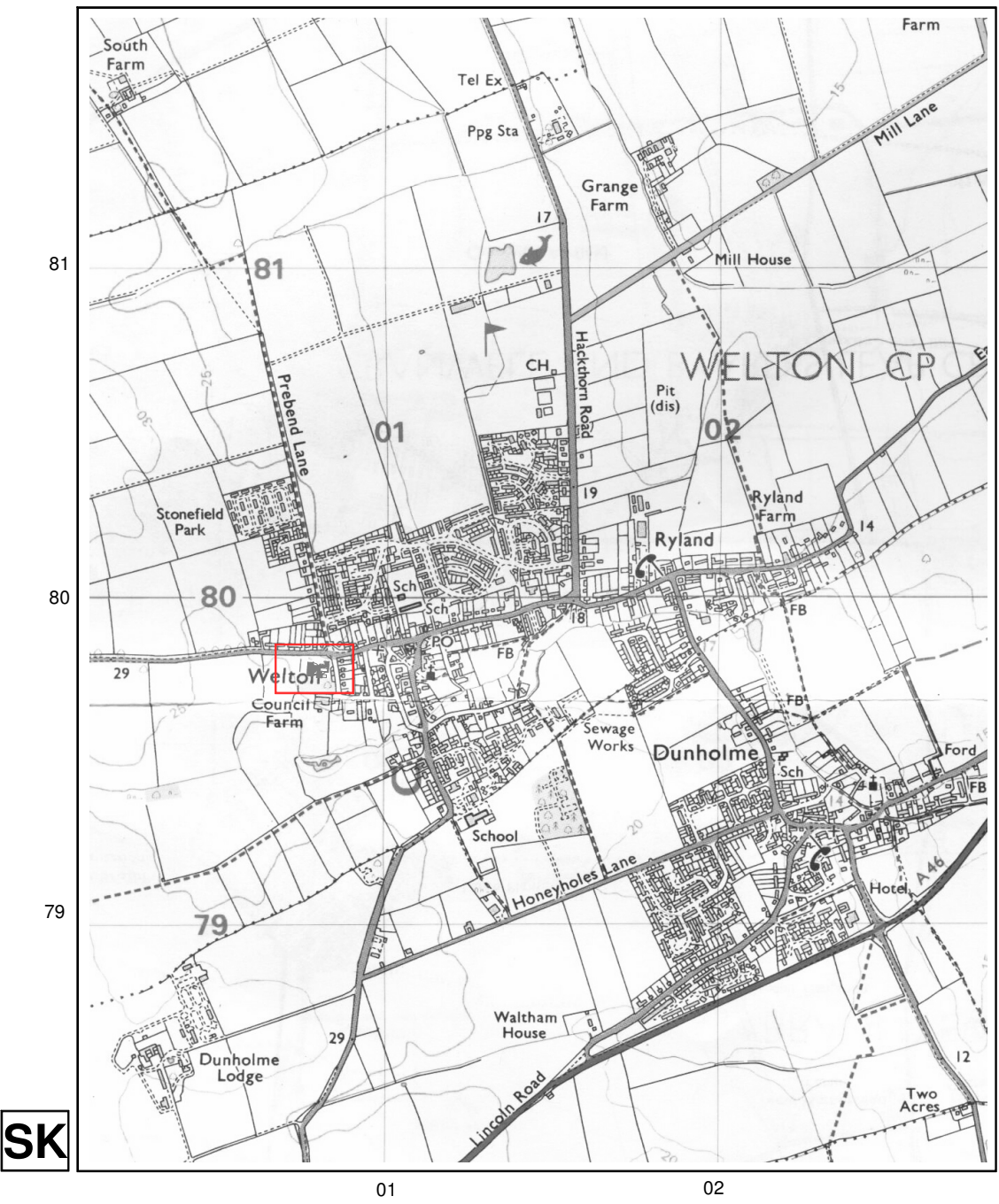
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11. ABBREVIATIONS

APS Archaeological Project Services




Figure 1 - General location plan



SK

Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey 1:25,000 map with the permission of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationary Office (C) Crown Copyright. HTL Limited Licence No. AL 5041A0001

 Area detailed in Figure 3




	Archaeological Project Services	
Project Name: Welton, Cliff Road WECR11		
Scale 1:20000	Drawn by: LM	Report No: 71/11

Figure 2 - Site location plan

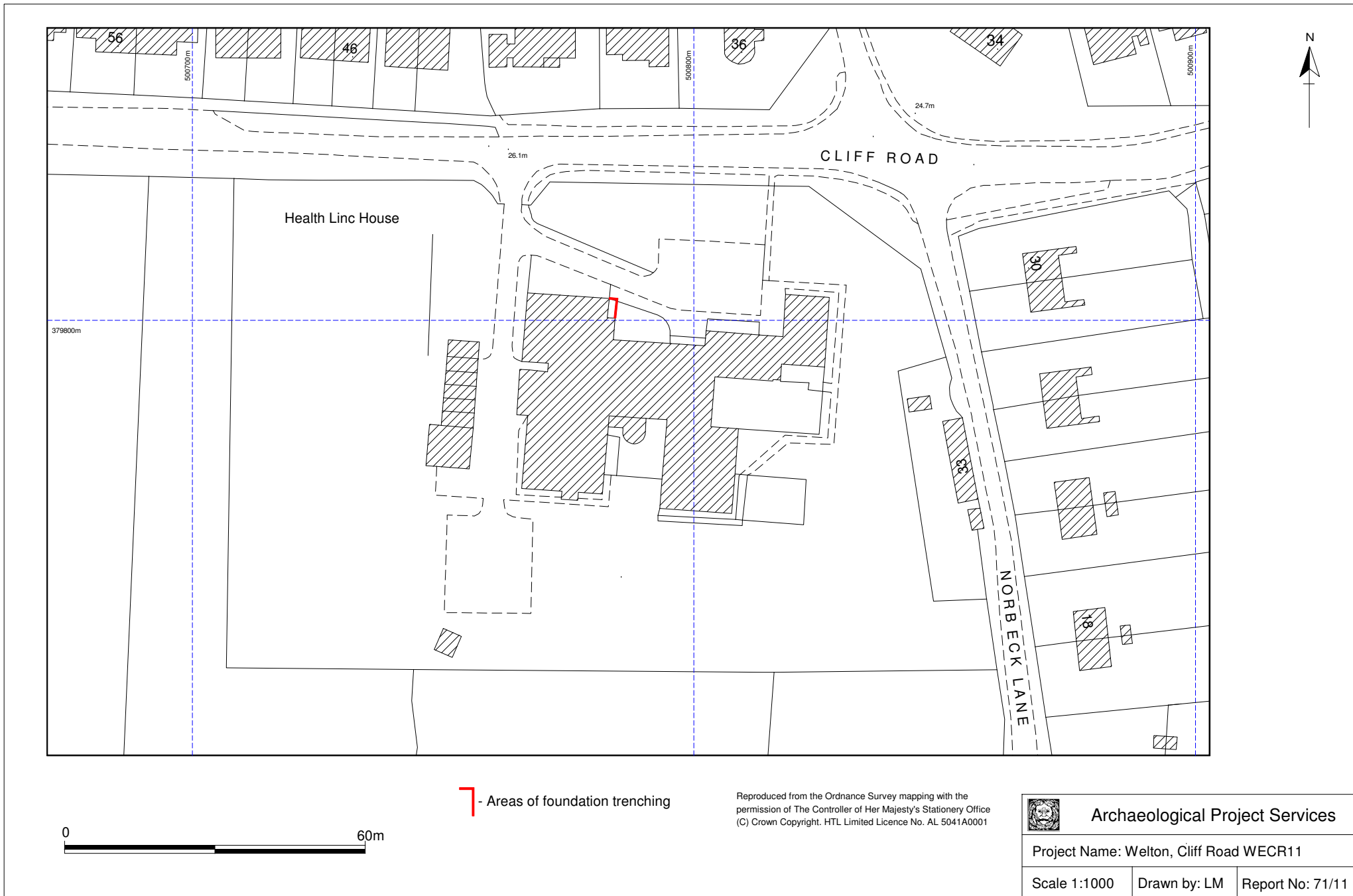


Figure 3 - Area of extension foundations

Plates



Plate 1: Location of trenches, at corner of existing building



Plate 2: Deposits observed in the southern section of the trench



Plate 3: Modern services at north end of trenching

Appendix 1

CONTEXT SUMMARY

Context	Trench	Description	Interpretation
001	Footings	Softish, mid greyish brown, clayey and silty sand	Buried subsoil
002	Footings	Softish, mid-yellowish brown, clayey sand	Natural deposit
003	Footings	Softish, light to mid grey, slightly clayey sand with 40% limestone fragments	Natural deposit

Appendix 2

GLOSSARY

Anglo-Saxon	Pertaining to the period when Britain was occupied by peoples from northern Germany, Denmark and adjacent areas. The period dates from approximately AD 450-1066.
Context	An archaeological context represents a distinct archaeological event or process. For example, the action of digging a pit creates a context (the cut) as does the process of its subsequent backfill (the fill). Each context encountered during an archaeological investigation is allocated a unique number by the archaeologist and a record sheet detailing the description and interpretation of the context (the context sheet) is created and placed in the site archive. Context numbers are identified within the report text by brackets, e.g. [004].
Cropmark	A mark that is produced by the effect of underlying archaeological or geological features influencing the growth of a particular crop.
Medieval	The Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1066-1500.
Natural	Undisturbed deposit(s) of soil or rock which have accumulated without the influence of human activity
Neolithic	The 'New Stone Age' period, part of the prehistoric era, dating from approximately 4500 - 2250 BC.
Prehistoric	The period of human history prior to the introduction of writing. In Britain the prehistoric period lasts from the first evidence of human occupation about 500,000 BC, until the Roman invasion in the middle of the 1st century AD.
Romano-British	Pertaining to the period dating from AD 43-410 when the Romans occupied Britain.
Saxon	Pertaining to the period dating from AD 410-1066 when England was largely settled by tribes from northern Germany

Appendix 3

THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------|
| 1 | Trench record sheet |
| 1 | Photographic record sheet |
| 1 | Daily record sheet |
| 2 | Sheets of amended scale drawing |

All primary records are currently kept at:

Archaeological Project Services
The Old School
Cameron Street
Heckington
Sleaford
Lincolnshire
NG34 9RW

The ultimate destination of the project archive is:

The Collection
Art and Archaeology in Lincolnshire
Danes Terrace
Lincoln
LN2 1LP

Accession Number

LCNCC:2011.78

Archaeological Project Services Site Code:

WECR 11

The discussion and comments provided in this report are based on the archaeology revealed during the site investigations. Other archaeological finds and features may exist on the development site but away from the areas exposed during the course of this fieldwork. *Archaeological Project Services* cannot confirm that those areas unexposed are free from archaeology nor that any archaeology present there is of a similar character to that revealed during the current investigation.

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